

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

13. (withdrawn) A friction plate formed by fixing friction material segments formed from a friction material to a core plate and having oil grooves communicating between the internal periphery and the external periphery, wherein:

said oil grooves are formed by fixing said friction material segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to said core plate and then effecting cutting.

14. (new) An apparatus for producing a friction plate having oil grooves communicating between an internal periphery and an external periphery of the friction plate, by fixing friction material segments formed from a friction material to a core plate,

the apparatus being operative to punch the friction material of a band shape to obtain plural friction material segments, to hold said friction material segments by stacking on a metal mold or a jig and to push said friction

material segments in succession to a side opposite to said metal mold or jig, and to press and adhere said friction material segments to said core plate, and

wherein said oil grooves include a first plurality of oil grooves formed on a surface of said friction material by plastic working of said friction material, and a second plurality of oil grooves which bottoms defined by a surface of said core plate and which are formed by fixation of said friction material segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to said core plate.

15. (new) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said first and second pluralities of oil grooves are formed parallel to a supply direction of the friction material segments.

16. (new) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said first plurality of oil grooves is formed by pressing the friction material.

17. (new) An apparatus for producing a friction plate having oil grooves communicating between an internal periphery and an external periphery of the friction plate,

by fixing friction material segments formed from a friction material to a core plate,

the apparatus being operative to punch the friction material of a band shape to obtain plural friction material segments, to hold said friction material segments by stacking on a metal mold or a jig and to push said friction material segments in succession to a side opposite to said metal mold or jig, and to press and adhere said friction material segments to said core plate,

wherein said oil grooves include a first plurality of oil grooves formed by cutting said friction material, and a second plurality of oil grooves which have bottoms defined by a surface of said core plate and which are formed by fixation of said friction material segments with predetermined gaps therebetween to said core plate.

18. (new) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said first and second pluralities of oil grooves are formed parallel to a supply direction of the friction material segments.